



## **The Houthis are anything but heroes**

The Yemeni militia is being celebrated by the Arab world and some in the West for its attacks 'on behalf' of Gaza

By Ilan Zalayat / January 25, 2024

Yemen's Ansar Allah organization, better known as the Houthi movement, became a global sensation overnight.

Its attacks on vessels beginning on Oct. 19 in the busy Bab al-Mandab strait between Yemen and Africa, the gateway to the Red Sea, disrupted global maritime shipping and prompted a United States and United Kingdom-led counter military response.

The Houthis launched the attacks demanding that Israel cease its military offensive in Gaza, and their operation has won them widespread popular support throughout the Arab world and even the West.

Social media in the West, and particularly in the Arab world, has been filled with support for "Yemen" (conflating the country with the militia group that controls it) as an ally for Gaza. In some pro-Palestinian protests in the West, demonstrators chant: "Yemen, Yemen make us proud, turn another ship around," praising the militia's perceived leftist agenda of anti-imperialism and defiance of global capitalism through their sea trade blockades. However, the demonstrators couldn't be more wrong about the Houthis.

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